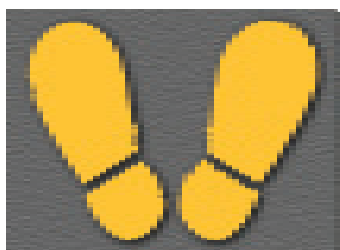




yellow footprints



Recruit Training Saves Life



yellow footprints

March 2005

first marine corps district

commanding officer
col. warren j. foersch
executive officer
lt. col. thomas f. may
operations officer
lt. col. chris a. lamson
sergeant major
sgt. maj. fenton reese

yellow footprints staff

public affairs officer
capt. john o. caldwell
public affairs chief
staff sgt. matthew a. butler
editor
sgt. matthew f. orr
photographer
sgt. jared k. hansen
community relations
cpl. thomas oakley lantz iv

marketing and public affairs

rs new york
staff sgt. amanda hay
rs new jersey
staff sgt. nathan hanks/sgt. eric kowal
rs buffalo
sgt. danny patterson
rs springfield
sgt. james heuston
rs albany
sgt. pamela shelley
rs portsmouth
staff sgt. ken tinnin
rs pittsburgh
cpl. thomas oakley lantz iv
rs harrisburg
staff sgt. jerry wright

Cover: photo illustration by Sgt. Jared Hansen

Yellow Footprints is published every other month with appropriated funds in accordance with Marine Corps and Department of the Navy printing and publication regulations by the Public Affairs Branch, Headquarters 1st Marine Corps District, 605 Stewart Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530.

Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Marine Corps.

CONTENTS

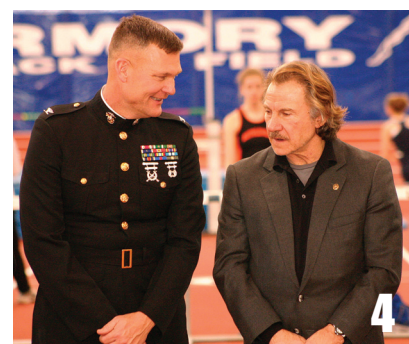
Phaselines

- 3 command corner
- 6 poolside
- 8 the district
- 12 pt program
- 13 the fleet
- 16 oso of the year
- 18 hometown hero
- 19 84 spot

FEATURES

- 4 ready, set, go!
1st marine corps district hosts inaugural holiday classic track meet in manhattan
- 10 to the rescue
albany marines rescue man from his burning truck.

- 14 take down
marine wrestlers visit new york high schools, generate leads.



Welcome board Sergeant Major



Greetings Marines,

I want to start by saying I am extremely proud to serve as your District Sergeant Major. As I travel throughout the District, there is one resounding theme that I have observed: there is no shortage of courage throughout the battlefields of the entire Fighting First Marine Corps District.

Make no mistake about it Marines, we are experiencing truly historic times in the world of Marine recruiting. There is no difference between the Marines of today and the Marines of yesteryear. These are the times where legacies are created and reputations are built.

During these extremely tumultuous times, we must come together as a team and take care of each other. We must continuously encourage each other in the face of battle in order to soar to the greatest heights. Above all else, we must continue to strive to give our very best. We must never quit or give up. We are recruiting during a time when America has the greatest expectations ever of her Marines. We must display our mettle and show true grit during these times. There is no doubt in my military mind that we will endure and overcome the adversity we are currently experiencing. We will accomplish this by utilizing a combination of skill, technique, and sheer doggone willpower.

Keep your heads and your wits about you Marines. The strength of the wolf is the pack, and the strength of the pack is the wolf. Attack, Attack, Attack Marines.

And remember, "Mission first, and Marines always."

Your Sergeant Major,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "John D. [unclear]".



On their mark 1st Marine Corps District hosts inaugural HOLIDAY CLASSIC TRACK MEET in Manhattan

Story by
Staff Sgt. Amanda Hay

Photos by
Sgt. Jared Hansen

First Marine Corps District partnered with the Armory Foundation to host the inaugural Marine Corps Holiday Classic at the Track and Field Center in Manhattan, Dec. 28.

With the help of Armory staff, Marines from 1st Marine Corps District, Recruiting Stations New Jersey, Springfield and New York came together to maximize their presence at the Enhanced Area Canvassing event reaching more than 4,500 high school athletes, coaches and parents during the all-day track meet.

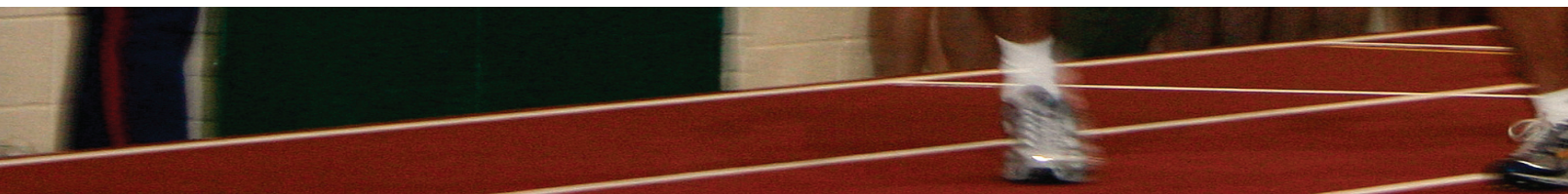
According to Major J.J. Dill, commanding officer, RS N.Y., he initiated the unique partnership with the Armory six months ago to reach a target market through the support of physical fitness events. "These athletes are physically fit and prove they have the dedication and discipline we look for in Marines. They are some of the brightest and best this generation has to offer and it's important that we support them and let them know of opportunities they have available to them."

In addition to the Chin-Up Challenge, the Marine Corps also provided a color guard, National Anthem

singer and presented awards to the top athletes. The medals, plaques and t-shirts had Marine Corps Holiday Classic logos. In case the 20 Marines on site were not enough, the meet's officials donned Marine hats and polo shirts. The 'For Country' commercial played almost every 30 minutes during the meet on a large screen at the end of the track.

The highlight of the day's event was when the Marines showcased their physical fitness with six Marine teams who ran an exhibition relay. With the help of the announcer, the high school athletes cheered on the Marines relay team that represented their state or borough. Marines from Recruiting Substation Staten Island took a victory lap as the Staten Island high school athletes reveled their victory.

Brigadier Gen. Richard T. Tryon, commanding general of Eastern Recruiting Region, and Col. Warren J. Foersch, commanding officer of 1st MCD, were on site to show support and present awards. Former Marine and Mayor of New York City David Dinkins and former Marine and actor Harvey Keitel were also on site to





show support to the partnership. During the day's event, the group grabbed the interest of local and national news media: WABC, WNBC, WB-11 and NY-1 attended the event and ran segments during their evening newscasts, which reach the tri-state area.

This event is one of 40 the Marine Corps will be involved with at the Armory to help generate leads and awareness. "The first ten events have given us visibility to private and public high schools in the area that may not have been too receptive to the military," Dill said.

According to Staff Sgt. Jeff Hess, staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of RSS West Bronx, it's important, now more than ever, to have face time with this market. "Students are not too receptive to Marines in uniform; the continued presence and support will give them an opportunity to hear what we have to offer and see this as a viable career option."

"The Marine Corps should be proud of the meet ... The kids talked about it all the way home and had many questions and comments," said Steven J. Kordos, World Cultures teacher and Head Track Coach, Buena Regional High School in Buena, N.J. "I was glad I had the opportunity to have participated in the Educators Workshop last year because it made answering their questions much easier. The whole event was impressive. I know that it opened the eyes of my team. I can't thank the Marine Corps enough for the opportunity to compete this year. We will be back next year. I, too, try to teach honor, courage and commitment to my athletes. It's obvious that the Marines honor their tradition and the love of the Corps." 🦶

Photos from left to right:

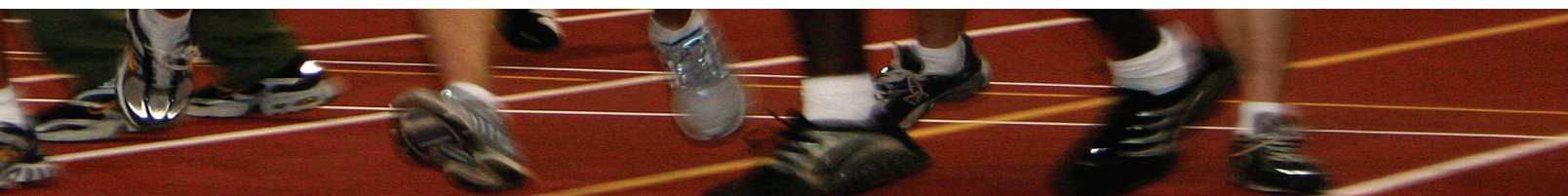
Athletes from Seton Hall Prep High School, New Jersey, talk with Maj. J.J. Dill, commanding officer, RS N.Y. and Sgt. Maj. Fenton Reese, sergeant major of 1st Marine Corps District.

Sergeant Maj. Robert C. Hollings, sergeant major, ERR and Brig. Gen. Richard T. Tryon, commanding general of ERR and MCRD Parris Island, stand alongside medal recipients in the girls 800m relay. From left to right are Suffern High School from New York, Largo High School from Maryland, Woodrow Wilson High School, Camden, New Jersey, and Murray Bergtraum High School from Manhattan.

Brigadier Gen. Richard T. Tryon, commanding general of ERR and MCRD Parris Island, S.C., presents awards for the boys distance medley relay to the winners from Northport High School, Long Island, N.Y.

Runners from the Marine Corps team competing in the 4X200m relay. The relay pitted six Marine teams from various recruiting stations against each other.

Commanding Officer of 1st Marine Corps District Colonel Warren J. Foersch with actor and former Marine Harvey Keitel during the track and field event.



Ready, Aim, Fire

Female poolees from
RS Portsmouth get
'hands-on' to prepare
for boot camp

Recruiting Station hosts

first female poolee event for FY 2005

Story and Photo by
Staff Sgt. Ken Tinnin

Recruiting Station Portsmouth, N.H. held its first female pool event for fiscal year 2005 at the Armed Forces Reserve Center in Londonderry, N.H.

Fifteen female poolees attended the event from all over RS Portsmouth's area of responsibility. It was an opportunity for them to prepare for recruit training without the presence of their male counterparts.

"The RS usually holds one or two female pool events each year," said Gunner Sgt. Carl Zador, RS Portsmouth pool coordinator. "Having only the females attend, gives them an opportunity to ask questions and participate in events without feeling intimidated or having the added pressure of having male poolees around."

Poolees participated in an Initial Strength Test (consisting of a flex-arm hang, crunches and a 1.5 mile run), a weapons familiarization class, and simulated marksmanship training using the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer.

They also had an opportunity to ask questions to female Marines about recruit training and life in the Marine Corps from a female perspective.

For many of the poolees the favorite part of the day was the marksmanship training.

"Firing the M-16 was great," said Danyale Ward, 20, from Barrington, N.H. "I'm hoping this opportunity will make me a little more comfortable with the rifle when I fire it for real at boot camp."

"Fifteen poolees attended, which is about half of the [recruiting station's] total female pool," said Zador. "Some of the poolees who did attend, brought friends who might be interested in the Corps, so that is a positive thing, plus the event was a great opportunity to meet other females in the Delayed Entry Program and talk with them."

All-in-all the event accomplished its goal of getting the poolees familiar with the weapons they will see in recruit training, giving them the opportunity to talk with female Marines and also talk with their peers.

"I feel the event went well," said Zador. "The poolees got a chance to familiarize themselves with the weapons they will see in recruit training and they did a good job on the [Initial Strength Test]."

Poolee events are extremely important to the Recruiting Station Portsmouth's success as they help build the member motivation level and commitment to the Corps as well as help prepare them for recruit training.





Danyale Ward, 20, of Barrington, N.H., a poolee from Recruiting Station Portsmouth, N.H., takes aim using the Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer at the Londonderry, N.H. Armed Forces Reserve Center.

Millennial Approach Learned at COMMANDERS CONFERENCE

100 key members of the Marine Corps' recruiting force attend a two-day seminar, which offered professional insight about the ever changing character traits of America's adolescence and how they could more effectively recruit for the 40,000 vacancies the Marine Corps needs to fill annually

Story and Photo by
Cpl. Thomas Oakley Lantz IV

More than 100 key members of the Marine Corps' recruiting force recently gathered in Atlantic City, N.J. to discuss the current generation of America's youth and more importantly, how to recruit them. "Millennials," as they've been coined by Lifecourse Associates Founder Neil Howe, were the topic of discussion at the day-long meeting, which covered topics such as why generations matter and how to engage Millennials and their influencers.

The lecture, which was part of a two-day conference, drew everyone from the officers in charge of local recruiting substations to the head of recruiting in the Marine Corps' Eastern Recruiting Region.

Howe offered Marines professional insight into the ever changing character traits of America's adolescent and how they could more effectively fill the 40,000 vacancies the Marine Corps needs to fill annually.

They were also given an opportunity to participate in a problem solving exercise, where generation-specific traits were evaluated and then converted into effective recruiting strategies.

One key observation of Howe's was that the Millennial generation appears to be more team ori-

ented, a characteristic which, in the long run, may favor the Marine Corps' notoriously close brotherhood. Along with being particularly fond of group settings and uniformity, Millennials are also thought to be more likely to adapt to a regimented lifestyle due to their fundamental trust in government and authority.

Howe also spoke on how the Millennials could be the next "Greatest Generation" -- the generation that helped shape this nation industrially in the roaring 1920's and later fought in World War II.

One of the key troubles of the Millennial generation, Howe mentioned, was the fact that they lack physical activity, and according to a 2002 Center for Dis-

ease Control study, are the most obese generation ever, more than four times likelier to be overweight than their Generation X predecessors.

This, said Howe, could potentially be a great selling point for the Marine Corps. "If you can sell membership to this unique organization, as a means of promoting lifelong habits of healthy living, you can demonstrate that joining this team will actually add to your longevity rather than risk it," Howe said. 🦶



Gunnery Sgt. Christopher B. Boissennault, NCOIC, RSS Greensburg, P.A., was one of more than 100 members of the Marine Corps' recruiting force who gathered in Atlantic City, N.J., to discuss the current generation of America's youth.

Support Marines Join Fight on the Streets

Story by

Staff Sgt. Matthew Butler

Photos by

Sgt. Jared Hansen



Corporals Jacob Crawford, administrative clerk, and Thomas Lantz, combat correspondent, both with 1st Marine Corps District Headquarters, talk with a prospect on the telephone at RSS Hicksville, N.Y.

Support billet Marines from Recruiting Station New York and 1st Marine Corps District Headquarters joined forces with local recruiters during a recent holiday weekend to bolster the recruiting effort.

The operation order crafted by Maj. J.J. Dill, commanding officer for RS N.Y., dubbed Operation MANHUNT, drew its workforce from RS and district enlisted sergeants and below, who are not school trained recruiters and don't typically find themselves on the streets with a recruiting mission.

Throughout the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial weekend, support Marines worked side by side with local recruiters.

The support Marines, some who work in the administrative, supply and logistical sections, canvassed designated areas to find age-qualified leads who will be worked to generate contracts and help the RS meet future contracting and shipping missions.

The RS assistant recruiter instructor and Marines in charge of the recruiting substations gave the support Marines classes on generating leads and how to handle indifference.

According to Dill, the weekend campaign was meant

to infuse the recruiters with energy, enthusiasm and positive and proactive leadership during the tough fight they are facing on recruiting. "It was successful beyond our imaginations," Dill said.

"It's lifted their moral a little bit. It's shown them that they are not in it by themselves and that their CO is behind them 100 percent," said Staff Sgt. David Scharf, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, RSS Hicksville, N.Y.

The "MANHUNT" generated nearly 950 contacts. From those contacts, the recruiters verified 450 workable leads. From this the statistics show that 12-15 contracts could be generated according to Capt. John Ostman, executive officer, RS N.Y.

"We've won the battle, but we haven't won the war," said Gunnery Sgt. Duane Silvera, assistant recruiter instructor for RS N.Y.

He points out the value of leads is only good when they generate a contract and until contracts are written it's hard to place a value on the mission's final success. But Silvera says the battle was won by "accomplishing the prospecting objective," by nearly nine times the prospecting requirement for the same time period.

"I hope I did something useful," said Sgt. Juan Barrot, an administrative clerk for the district headquarters staff. "I went out with the recruiters and did my best."

"I've seen what the recruiters have to deal with, so I have respect for them because it's not easy going up to complete strangers and saying 'we are looking for people to join our Corps.'"

"It reenergized the recruiters knowing that we've got more back up," said Sgt. Urgelio Romain, a canvassing recruiter working out of the East Bronx N.Y. RSS.

"It helps knowing that you've got support and reinforcements out there and that the (support) Marines are pitching in to help," Romain said. "They've got an outside view. They're a good ready reference for us. I think this will help accumulate numbers."

"The intent was to put some energy back in the recruiting force," Dill said. "The last few months were rough on them and they've had some defeats they weren't used to, and we wanted to make sure they get out there and they believe in themselves and believe in what we're doing for the Marine Corps."

Romain said, "It's crunch time, and you've got to pull in your reserves and pull in all of your assets to work it."





01.03.05

Four Marines on recruiters assistance rescue a driver from his burning tractor-trailer that had crashed into the back of another truck's trailer.

The Marines are now completing Marine Combat Training at Camp Lejeune before they report for their military occupational specialty schools.

Story by

Paul Ertlet

Photos by

Assemblymen Chris Ortliff

Coming upon the scene of a fiery truck crash on the Northway earlier this month, four young Marines quickly assessed the situation and sprang into action.

As a result, truck driver Cornelius "Butch" Mahar is alive today.

At a different time, things might have turned out differently, said Pfc. Greg LaFountain; if he had encountered the same situation before he became a Marine, he probably would have been just another helpless bystander.

"We probably wouldn't have done the same thing."

LaFountain, 18, of Peru; Pfc. William Patnode, 24, of Peru; Pvt. James Stewart, 19, of Plattsburgh; and Pfc. Charles Meskunas, 21, of Dannemora had completed Marine boot camp in December.

"They build you to have confidence in yourself and your ability, so there's no hesitation in your action," Patnode said.

It was not long before that confidence was tested.

On the cold, foggy afternoon of Jan. 3, Mahar's nearly empty fuel-tanker truck rammed into the rear end of a tractor trailer about two

miles south of Northway exit 31. He suffered a broken leg, a shattered pelvis and several fractured ribs from the impact. A ball of flames erupted at the front of the cab.

Meanwhile, the four Marines were also heading south on the Northway, with LaFountain at the wheel. Patnode remembers smelling smoke first, then seeing the blaze.

The Marines got out and surveyed the situation, then urged onlookers to stay back.

They quickly decided that LaFountain and Patnode should continue south and try to sum-



mon help, while Meskunas and Stewart remained at the accident site.

As with many places along the Northway, there was no cell-phone reception there. After driving for about a mile, LaFountain was finally able to get through to his father, State Police Capt. Robert LaFountain.

The driver of the tractor trailer, Gloria Morgan of Lynchburg, S.C., had gotten out of her vehicle relatively unscathed and was being helped by a passing motorist.

When no one could account for the other driver, Stewart and Meskunas headed toward the burning fuel truck.

The Marines got the door open but couldn't get Mahar's seat belt off. A Canadian truck driver with a knife cut him free, and they got Mahar out, Stewart said.

By then, Patnode and LaFountain had returned, and the four Marines carried Mahar, using a sleeping bag, a safe distance from the blaze.

As they waited for an ambulance,

the Marines found blankets for the semiconscious trucker and tried to comfort him. Remembering his boot-camp training, LaFountain elevated Mahar's legs to keep him from going into shock.

Mahar, 57, of Rensselaer is recovering at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington. The hospital recently removed his neck brace and took him off a feeding tube, said his son, Patrick.

"He's progressing day to day," he said, noting that Mahar did not suffer from any burns in the accident.

Assemblyman Chris Ortloff (R-Plattsburgh) was also at the site of the accident, and this week he and Sen. Betty Little (R-Queensbury) sponsored a resolution in the State Legislature praising the Marines' "valiant effort" in rescuing Mahar.

Such eloquence escapes Mahar's son.

"I can't find the words. It's unbelievable. They risked their lives for somebody they didn't know," he said. "The only thing I can say is thank you and God bless them."

Photos above: Private James Stewart and an unidentified truck driver pull 57-year-old Cornelius J. Mahar from his burning tractor-trailer cab after it collided with another vehicle on Interstate 87 in New York. Also pictured is Pfc. Charles Meskunas who helped drag Mahar to safety. Not pictured are Pfc. William Patnode and Pfc. Gregory LaFountain who dropped off Meskunas and Stewart and then went to call for help. All four Marines were assigned to RS Albany, N. Y., on the Permissive Recruiters Assistance Program. The Marines were on their way to RS Albany for recruiters' assistance training when they happened upon the accident.

Editor's Note: This story was reprinted with permission of the PressRepublican.com. The story, "Marine mindset made all the difference at Northway crash," first appeared on 1/20/05.



Sergeant Craig Martinez, a canvassing recruiter from Recruiting Substation Montclair in Bloomfield, N.J., (right in red) leads a physical education class at James Caldwell High School, West Caldwell, N.J.

NEW JERSEY MARINE TAKES THE LEAD in High School Physical Education Class

Story and Photos by

Staff Sgt. Nathan Hanks

Gaining access to local schools has always been a challenge for recruiters. However, for one recruiter that road has been made easier through high school athletics.

Sergeant Craig Martinez, a canvassing recruiter from Recruiting Substation Montclair, N.J., decided to use the idea of teaching Physical Education as his way into James Caldwell High School.

After submitting a letter and a plan of action, Martinez received a phone call from the athletic director, giving him permission to teach the class.

"The purpose of the visit was to give the students an idea what Marine Corps physical training is all about and to instill in their minds that 20-30 minutes of physical training per day will make you less fatigued and focused on more of your studies and future goals," he said.

Martinez went on to say that this was a change of pace from the usual gym class for the students but also the teaching staff as well.

Martinez began his class with warm-up exercises

and calisthenics such as mountain climbers, windmills, side straddle hops and Marine Corps push-ups.

At the conclusion of each physical education period, Martinez gave away t-shirts and lanyards to those students who led an exercise or who showed the most motivation.

According to Martinez, by day's end, the staff gained more ideas on how to instill self-discipline and physical training into their student's young minds. Gianna Curiale, health and physical education teacher said the visit also gave students who are considering joining the military a chance to get a feel of what it has to offer.

"This visit was a positive experience," said Jodi Werrell, health and physical education

teacher. "The students were exposed to some basic [physical] training as well as [witnessed Marine Corps] discipline and having the opportunity to take on responsibility."

Patrick Leonardis, health and physical education student teacher also agreed that the visit was positive.

"I do feel that majority participation is necessary in order for this to be successful. Students that wanted to participate really enjoyed the experience," Leonardis said.

"Whether or not students wanted to participate, I feel that they all learned some basic exercise that will benefit them throughout life," said Leonardis. "This would be a great addition to the curriculum if modified to engage all types and levels of students."

Martinez said that some of the students were hesitant at first. However, at the end of one of the periods a couple of students thanked him for giving the class.

"Using the physical education class, I was able to do a couple of things," Martinez said. "It gave the students an inside look into how the Marine Corps conducts its physical fitness program. It also allowed me to interact with the students and give them a chance to ask questions one-on-one, dispelling some of the myths and misconceptions about the Marine Corps." 🦶🦶



CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq. - Corporal Danny R. Suarez, Combat Service Support Company 115, put firefighter and paramedic careers on hold when his unit was activated. Suarez is deployed out of 6th Communications Battalion, a reserve unit based in Brooklyn, N.Y. He is a 24-year-old native of New York. Photo by: Sgt. Luis R. Agostini



MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT TRAINING CENTER TWENTY-NINE PALMS, Calif. - Corporal Karl Schaeffer, a scout sniper team leader with Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 2d Marine Regiment prepares his M-40 A3 sniper rifle to fire later on in the day during the known distance and zeroing range. Schaeffer, a native of Murtztown, Pa., graduated from Brandywine Heights High School in 1998.

Photo by: Lance Cpl. Lucian Friel



CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Lance Cpl. James C. O'Rourke, assistant security clearance manager with 8th Communications Battalion and 20 year-old from Marlton, N.J., is the administrative assistant for the Single Marine Program at Camp Lejeune. The SMP offers activities ranging from concerts to paintball to help single Marines spend their free time.

Photo by: Cpl. Shawn C. Rhodes

‘Take Down’

MARINE WRESTLERS VISIT NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOLS, GENERATE LEADS, AWARENESS

Story and Photos by
Staff Sgt. Amanda Hay



Two Marines from the All-Marine wrestling team recently visited Recruiting Station New York to conduct wrestling clinics at high schools on Long Island.

During the three-day visit, corporals Jacob Clark and Ryan Cunningham went to nine high schools teaching wrestling techniques and bringing light to the career of a Marine athlete.

The visit opened doors with the staff and students at each school, as most were not aware the Marine Corps has a wrestling team, said Staff Sgt. Sergio Moller, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Recruiting Substation Lindenhurst.

Less than five of the 200 students addressed during the clinics knew the Marine Corps even had full-time athletes.

Tom Fasano, a 17-year-old senior and wrestler at Deer Park High School, said he had no idea the Marines had a wrestling team.

“I’m glad they came, I thought the only option as a Marine was to go play ‘Rambo.’”

According to Matt Calarco, the athletic director of Deer Park High School, this visit was a ‘wonderful ex-

perience’ for the young men at his school.

“The fact that they now know they may have an opportunity to continue to participate in an activity they enjoy, have their education paid for and to serve their country is an enticing opportunity,” he said.

The Marine wrestlers began each visit by covering their history as wrestlers, discussing why they joined the Marines, how they ended up on the team and about their travels as international wrestlers.

Clark, a native of Minnesota, who was a two-time high school Greco-Roman national champion, joined the Marine Corps after one year of college. He is a transportation management specialist by trade and has been with the wrestling team since January 2000. He has competed throughout the world and has won five armed forces titles.

Cunningham, a native of Michigan, was a high school All-American in wrestling and a three-time All-State football player. He then attended Central Michigan University, where he wrestled and earned several accolades as a wrestler and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in sports administration. After college he became a high school teacher and wrestling coach but left his job to

serve as a Marine due to September 11th. He is a combat engineer by trade and has been with the team since October 2004.

After gaining the credibility of their audience, they began their routine with Marine Corps style warm-up exercises. As the students broke a sweat, they filed into lines to do relays of gymnastics.

Uvena said he plans to incorporate some of the warm up drills into their practice. Clark and Cunningham demonstrated Greco-Roman style wrestling, which is an international wrestling style. High school athletes usually train using collegiate style. The techniques helped broaden their abilities.



Clark emphasized to the students that even though they may not feel too masculine doing gymnastics, it's crucial to help learn body control, prevent injuries and improve balance and flexibility.

At the end of the visit, both wrestlers hit the mats with the students doing scramble drills, which help develop the ability to defeat an opponent from a resting position.

Moller concluded each visit by explaining that the Marine Corps is behind them as students and as athletes.

"We are competitive, and we take a lot of pride in who we are and what we represent. As a Marine who lives and works in the local community, we take pride in the sports teams and this our way to help make you better athletes."

According to Brian Uvena, the wrestling coach and athletic director of North Babylon High School, the Marine wrestlers not only exposed a career option for his students, but they were excellent role models. "They came like gentlemen. They showed the students you can be tough and still have discipline; sometimes they get that confused."

Photos from left to right:

Corporal Jacob Clark speaks to students of Deer Park High School about wrestling and also about making educated decisions about their future. Clark graduated from high school in 1998 and attended one year of college before joining the Marine Corps.

The 26 students on the wrestling team from Deer Park High School on Long Island, pose with Marine wrestlers corporals Jacob Clark and Ryan Cunningham. The wrestlers recently visited Recruiting Station New York to conduct wrestling clinics at area high schools.

Students from North Babylon High School on Long Island pose with Marine wrestlers corporals Jacob Clark and Ryan Cunningham.

The students of North Babylon High School on Long Island jumped at the opportunity to wrestle with the Marines during the scramble drills. Corporal Ryan Cunningham, a former school teacher and wrestling coach, won each time but taught the students how to improve as they went along.

Officer Selection Office of the Year

Captain Kenneth K. Goedecke, RS Portsmouth, N.H.

With more than 31 Marine lieutenants commissioned under the watchful charge of Capt. Kenneth K. Goedecke, officer selection officer, RS Portsmouth, his office has earned the title of 1st Marine Corps District's best OSO for 2004 and they continue to shape the leadership of the future. Goedecke places an emphasis on success through motivation and being responsible. Goedecke is driven by the understanding that these candidates will lead other Marines and shape to the Corps of the future.

Q. To what do you owe your success?

A. *A dedicated Officer Selection Team; our partners at OSO Boston who have assisted us in every way possible, from setting up joint pool events to helping us plow through medical issues with MEPS; and a commanding officer who has complete faith and confidence in his officers to accomplish the assigned mission in a challenging, independent environment.*

Q. What role did your team play in your success?

A. *Mr. Scotty Egers retired from the Air Force last year and came to the team as the human resource assistant while still on terminal leave. He spent roughly ten of his last twenty-two years on active duty in the Air Force recruiting squadron, and I have been fortunate enough to be able to draw on this experience and solicit his opinions and advice to help us tackle issues and work smarter, vice harder.*

Q. What is your plan for success for 2005?

A. *Stay motivated. Most Marines in their third year of recruiting are chomping at the bit to get back to the fleet. I'm no different, and I cannot wait to get back to leading Marines. However, my biggest source of motivation is that the lieutenants I put in now will hit the fleet the same time I will. I have personally endorsed all of them, and I look forward to serving with them in the fleet. Most of my candidates come from well-to-do backgrounds and go to some of the top universities in the country. They have the world on a platter, yet their first choice and one heartfelt desire is to lead Marines in a time of national crisis.*

Q. What was your greatest obstacle and how did you overcome it?

A. *Geography. I attempted to do the majority of the prospecting in the fall, knowing that I would have to cancel a few visits in the winter. Besides that, we just bundle up, drive slow, and suck it up.*

Q. Do you have any advice for other OSO's looking to achieve similar success?

A. *Have fun! My first year as an OSO, I executed the plan my predecessor laid out for me. It may have worked for him, but I was miserable doing business the way he did. Last year, I told my right-hand man, Gunny McDonough, that we weren't doing anything unless we could do it with a genuine smile on our face. Gunny Mac is a huge grunt with a rack of ribbons a mile high. Everyone wants to come up and hear his stories. That's what it's all about, and that's when it gets fun—when you can relay to them on a very personal level what being a Marine means to you.*

Q. Is there anything else you would like to add?

A. *I requested OSO duty and got everything I asked for—challenging, independent duty in an area of the country I would otherwise never live in as an active duty Marine. I also feel like I got an extraordinary opportunity to positively impact the future leadership of the Marine Corps. To date, there are 31 outstanding lieutenants in the Marine Corps who were commissioned under my watch, and there are more to come. I look forward to serving with them when I return to the fleet at the end of this year.*



by Staff Sgt. Ken Tinnin



Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Raymond Trujillo

Capt. Kenneth K. Goedecke, officer selection officer, and Scotty Egers, human resource assistant, and the rest of the OSO Durham team were selected as 1st Marine Corps District OSO of the year for fiscal year 2004.



“I’ve been singing ever since I was a little kid, and once I got my guitar, I just went with it.”

Cpl. Robbie Blowers
Moravia, N.Y. native
stationed at MCRD
San Diego

For Country For Music

**Military Policeman with
a passion for country music
takes center stage.**

Story and Photo by
Cpl. Jess Levens

His grandfather gave him a drum kit when he was 13, and he got his first guitar when he was 14. Eight years later, this military policeman writes his own music, sings in Karaoke competitions and is ready to record a demo album.

“I’ve always been into music,” said Cpl. Robbie Blowers. “I’ve been singing ever since I was little kid, and once I got my guitar, I just went with it.” His mother Patty Blowers said, “I remember when he got that guitar. He picked up on it naturally. He taught himself to play.”

Blowers’ musical style is pure country - nothing else. He listens to other stuff, but he said country music appeals to him more.

“I was raised country,” said the Moravia, N.Y. native. “Country music is very wholesome. Also, country music has a patriotic attitude that most genres don’t have.”

Blowers said he has written more songs than he can keep up with, but he has several distinct favorites. His top choice is called “Kissing You Goodbye,” a love song.

Blowers plans to record a four-song demo in the near future with production assistance from some Marine Band San Diego colleagues.

“I wanted to record this month,” said Blowers. “But I’m in the middle of planning my wedding. It’s a lot more work than I thought.”

His fiancée, Yanina Mickelsen, met him through a mutual friend, and they share similar interests.

Blowers said he’ll get married wearing boots, Wrangler jeans and belt buckle, a black felt cowboy hat and a tuxedo jacket.

Blowers said he looks forward to continuing with his music career in the future. 🦶🦶



Sgt. Steven M. Fiacco

RSS Tonawanda, RS Buffalo

When Sgt. Steven M. Fiacco, canvassing recruiter, began recruiting duty in March 2004, he set goals to become a successful recruiter. By taking advice from his peers and co-workers, he has achieved each goal so far.

Working in his hometown of Lockport, N.Y., Fiacco said it gives him a sense of pride to stand tall as a Marine and see the people he grew up around.

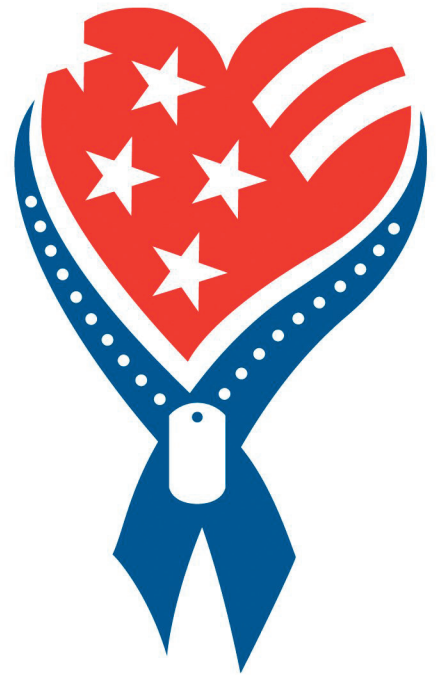
“When I visit the high schools and teachers, they are very proud of the accomplishments I have made,” Fiacco said. “It feels great to be standing in the same place where I graduated and present an award to a student.”

Fiacco said even though recruiting duty can be tough at times, he is glad he volunteered for the job because it has taught him skills he can use after recruiting duty.

So far, Fiacco has brought 30 young men and women into the Marines. After this tour, Fiacco plans to make recruiting duty a career as he ventures to become a career recruiter. Fiacco was recognized as Rookie Recruiter of the Year in 2004 for RS Buffalo at their Marine Corps Ball.

AMERICA SUPPORTS YOU

OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN



FOR INFORMATION ON HOW AMERICA
CAN SUPPORT THE TROOPS OVERSEAS,
VISIT THE WEB SITE:

WWW.AMERICASUPPORTSYOU.ORG



1st Marine Corps District
Public Affairs Office
605 Stewart Ave
Garden City, N.Y. 11530